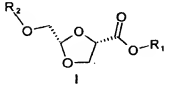
CLAIMS

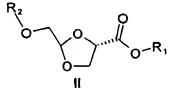
1. A process for producing a compound of formula I:



I

said process comprising the steps of:

a) subjecting a compounds of formula II:



II

to an enzymatic diastereomeric resolution in the presence of a suitable amount of enzyme chosen from Pig Liver Esterase or Porcine Pancreatic Lipase;

b) recovering said compound of formula I

wherein;

R_1 is chosen from C_{1-12} alkyl, C_{2-12} alkenyl, C_{2-12} alkynyl, C_{6-12} aryl, C_{3-10} heterocycle, C_{6-12} aralkyl or C_{3-10} heteroaralkyl; and

R_2 is a hydroxyl protecting group.

2. The process according to claim 1, wherein R_1 is C_{1-12} alkyl.

3. The process according to claim 1 wherein R_2 is chosen from: CO-C_{1-6} alkyl, CO-C_{6-12} aryl, CO-C_{1-6} alkoxy, CO-C_{6-12} aryloxy, or CO-C_{6-12} arylalkyl.

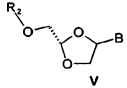
4. The process according to claim 1, wherein R_2 is CO-C_{6-12} aryl.

5. The process according to claim 1, wherein the enzyme is Pig Liver Esterase.

6. The process according to claim 1, wherein the enzyme is Porcine Pancreatic Lipase.

7. The process according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

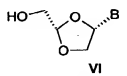
a) replacing the functional group at position C4 of the compound of formula I to produce a compound of formula V:



V

b) removing the group R_2 of said compound of formula V;

c) recovering a compound of formula VI:



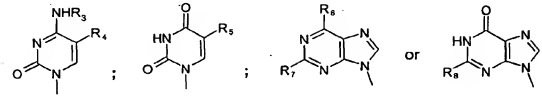
VI

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

wherein;

B is purine or pyrimidine base or an analogue thereof.

8. The process according to claim 7, wherein B is chosen from:



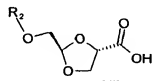
wherein;

R_3 is chosen from H, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} acyl and CO-R_9; wherein R9 is H or C1-6 alkyl;

R_4 and R_5 are each independently chosen from H, C_{1-6} alkyl, bromide, chloride, fluoride, iodide or CF_3; and

R_6, R_7 and R_8 are each independently chosen from H, bromide, chloride, fluoride, iodide, amino, hydroxyl or C_{3-6} cycloalkylamino.

9. The process according to claim 1, further comprising the step of recovering a compound of formula VII:

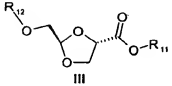


VII

10. A process according to claim 1, wherein R_1 is C_{1-12} alkyl and R_2 is CO-C_{6-12} aryl.

11. A process according to claim 1, wherein R_1 is methyl and R_2 is benzoyl.

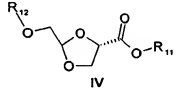
12. A process for producing a compound of formula III:



III

said process comprising the steps of:

a) subjecting a compounds of formula IV:



IV

to an enzymatic diastereomeric resolution in the presence of a suitable amount of enzyme chosen from Candida Antarctica "A" lipase, Candida Antarctica "B" lipase, Candida Lypolitica Lipase or Rhizomucor Miehei Lipase;

b) recovering said compound of formula III;

wherein;

R_{11} is chosen from C_{1-12} alkyl, C_{2-12} alkenyl, C_{2-12} alkynyl, C_{6-12} aryl, C_{3-10} heterocycle, C_{6-12} aralkyl or C_{3-10} heteroaralkyl; and

R_{12} is a hydroxyl protecting group.

13. The process according to claim 12, wherein R_{11} is C_{1-12} alkyl.

14. The process according to claim 12 wherein R_{12} is chosen from: CO-C_{1-6} alkyl, CO-C_{6-12} aryl, CO-C_{1-6} alkoxy, CO-C_{6-12} aryloxy, or CO-C_{6-12} arylalkyl.

15. The process according to claim 12, wherein R_{12} is CO-C_{6-12} aryl.

16. The process according to claim 12, wherein the enzyme is Candida Antarctica "A" lipase.

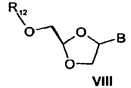
17. The process according to claim 12, wherein the enzyme is Candida Antarctica "B" lipase.

18. The process according to claim 12, wherein the enzyme is Candida Lypolitica Lipase.

19. The process according to claim 12, wherein the enzyme is Rhizomucor Miehei Lipase.

20. The process according to claim 12, further comprising the steps of:

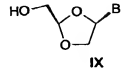
a) replacing the functional group at position C4 of the compound of formula III to produce a compound of formula VIII:



VIII

b) removing the group R_{12} of said compound of formula VIII;

c) recovering a compound of formula IX:



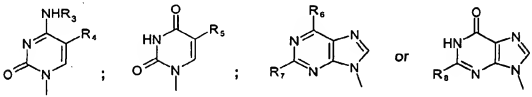
IX

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

wherein;

B is purine or pyrimidine base or an analogue thereof.

21. The process according to claim 20, wherein B is chosen from:



wherein;

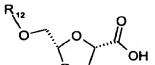
R_3 is chosen from H, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} acyl and CO-R_9;

wherein R9 is H or C1-6 alkyl;

R_4 and R_5 are each independently chosen from H, C_{1-6} alkyl, bromide, chloride, fluoride, iodide or CF_3; and

R_6, R_7 and R_8 are each independently chosen from H, bromide, chloride, fluoride, iodide, amino, hydroxyl or C_{3-6} cycloalkylamino.

22. The process according to claim 26, further comprising the step of recovering a compound of formula X:



X

23. A process according to claim 12, wherein R_{11} is C_{1-12} alkyl and R_{12} is $CO-C_{6-12}$ aryl.

24. A process according to claim 12, wherein R_{11} is methyl and R_{12} is benzoyl.